

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, September 27, 1999

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 27, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2684. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2684) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KYL, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. INOUE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words from a Prayer of Moses:

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHINA NOT TRULY READY FOR NTR

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, the old adage that "old habits die hard" could not be more appropriate to what has occurred in China since this Congress last July voted to renew most-favored-nation status, now called normal trade relations, or NTR, for another year.

I would like to provide a short update, because many so-called administrative experts are calling for the granting of permanent NTR for China before the end of this year. I want you to judge for yourself.

Get this: Police in Southern China arrested 31 people and demolished three churches just to crush a Protestant religious group. The expectation is that these church leaders will receive a show trial which will be a mockery of justice with no due process and be subject to severe sentences, all because of their choice of worship.

And get this: A recent revelation by the Washington Post, 100,000 people, that is right, 100,000 people were recently arrested, all in preparation for the celebrations China has planned for the 50th anniversary of the Communist rule. One hundred thousand people put in jail under the guise of social stability and safety. How ironic.

Madam Speaker, NTR as it applies to China actually stands for "not truly ready." I urge my colleagues and the administration to think hard before we make this choice of permanent status.

I yield back the balance of my time and any common sense remaining regarding our efforts with China.

GIULIANI CUTS FUNDS TO BROOKLYN ART MUSEUM

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, I agree with New York Mayor Giuliani for cutting funds to the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Their latest show features the bust of a man frozen in his own blood, a small pig sliced in half and preserved in a bottle of formaldehyde, and a portrait of the Virgin Mary splattered with elephant feces. Art, Madam Speaker? My ascot.

Let us tell it like it is. The truth is the art world has gone from Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel to Lorena Bobbitt's pristine scalpel. Beam me up.

I yield back the trash, not treasures, of the Brooklyn Museum of Disgusting Art.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.